



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOLUME XXIX.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1904.—TWELVE PAGES.

NUMBER 746.

MUST PROBE DEEP

In Order that Theater Fire Inquest May Fix Blame Where It Really Belongs.

Public Will Not Be Satisfied with Mere Attack on Police and Fire Departments.

No By-Play with New Ordinances in the City Council Can Distract Public Attention

From Stern Duty of Fixing Responsibility for the Holocaust on Proper Parties.

There Must Be No Fear, No Favor, and No Whitewash in This Inquiry.

The work of fixing the responsibility for the Iroquois Theater disaster drags somewhat, but work of this kind, in order to be thorough and complete, is necessarily slow.

The Coroner's Jury seems to be composed of earnest, intelligent citizens, and it should leave no stone unturned to place the blame where it properly belongs.

One thing is certain, and that is that the people will not stand for any official whitewash, and we are much mistaken in the caliber of the jury if its members are not in full touch and sympathy with the sentiment of the public in this regard.

Another thing that might as well be understood is that the public will not rest content with a mere attack upon the Police and Fire Departments or the official heads of these forces.

If it should be found that any responsibility belongs there, let such responsibility be placed, but it will not do to try to saddle the entire burden of it upon subordinate officials.

The laws have not been enforced; the question that the people ask and that must be answered is, whose duty is it to see that the laws are enforced?

We see now in the proceedings before the Coroner's Jury the spectacle of subordinate officials shifting the blame from one to another. The reason is evident; there is a divided responsibility, each being charged with carrying out only certain parts of the law. Now that being so, the inquiry properly directed should be to find out who it is who is charged with seeing to it that all of the law is enforced in the letter and the spirit. When that discovery is made it will then be easy enough to place the proper responsibility in proper measure upon the right parties.

No byplay in the shape of amended or new ordinances rushed through by the City Council should direct or distract attention from this object. It is all very well to improve the laws now that the mischief has been done and the dreaded catastrophe has happened, but it should be borne in mind that it is not so much new laws but the enforcement of those we now have that is needed in this city. It should not be forgotten either that the old law, if it had been carried out, was ample enough in its scope to have prevented the theater disaster. If it had been enforced thoroughly the Iroquois holocaust would not have occurred.

The Coroner has been painstaking in his conduct of this investigation. No doubt Mr. Traeger is aware that the eyes of the public are upon him, and that he is looked to for the fullest performance of his duty without fear or favor.

If the investigation he is now conducting shall bring home the blame to those who are properly blameable, no matter how high or how low it may strike, the public will be satisfied, and the Coroner will receive its approval.

In the meantime, it will not do to go fishing for scapegoats. The case of Building Commissioner Williams is a case in point. The Building Commissioner is not to blame and no amount of innuendo or hysterical shrieking can result in holding him responsible in the eyes of the public. Building Commissioner Williams has served in that capacity only since May, and immediately after his appointment he started in to put the law into operation.

Among other things he investigated every theater in the city and presented the Mayor with a full list of all that were violating the fire ordinance. The Mayor did not act on that report, and now comes the question, who is to blame under these circumstances—the Mayor or the Building Commissioner? The answer must be obvious.

Again, for six years of Harrison's administration, Chicago has not had a Building Commissioner appointed in accordance with the law. In this the Mayor showed the utmost disregard for the law. Mr. Williams was not responsible for that, and the question that people are now asking is, What is the Coroner's Jury going to do about it?

The Coroner's Jury must place the blame where it really belongs. Scapegoats will not do this time.

The new building ordinance is one of the poorest measures of the kind ever passed. The original measure was a fairly good one, but the Council emasculated it before passing it.

No doubt the next move will be to throw open the theaters under temporary restricting rules. The solicitude of our city fathers for the welfare of the actors and theater employes is truly wonderful.

Many people are asking whether it is better that theater employes shall have jobs, or the public be saved from the danger of another holocaust.

Some strange influence must have been brought to bear upon the majority of the City Council to secure the passage of the new building ordinance in its present shape. What could that influence have been? Perhaps the grand jury might find out.

Mr. Walter S. Bogle delivered an able address at the coal merchants' reunion in the Sherman House last Saturday night. Mr. Bogle is always a happy speaker, and on this occasion was, as usual, appropriate and felicitous.

What can be the animus in the continual and persistent attacks of the city administration upon the Lake Street Elevated road?

Postmaster Coyne appeared before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives at Washington Tuesday last and for more than two hours discussed the needs of Chicago's postal service. If we only had municipal officials of the caliber, integrity and fidelity to duty of Postmaster Coyne, Chicago would be a very different city.

Harrison and his gang howl about municipal ownership of street railways, and yet the city administration is unable to provide municipal ownership of an antidote plant.

Mayor Harrison need not apologize for his building commissioner. What he needs to do is to apologize for himself.

The "vacant chair" in the City Council is to be filled this spring, according

to Alderman Mayor. Is it to be done by habeas corpus proceedings, or will the voters produce the man?

The latest attack on the Lake Street "L" is in the shape of an exaction of an unreasonable license fee. It would seem to be the policy of the city administration to do everything possible to hamper and interfere with the useful elevated roads.

If the city is unable to maintain a plant for the manufacture of antitoxin, how is it going to maintain and operate "all public utilities"?

An indefinite adjournment has put at least a temporary quietus on the activities of the Council graft committee. As its work had degenerated into an attack on the police force and the fire department, it is of little consequence whether it ever resumes business again or not.

Since we have had a shower of rain, the water supply is once more contaminated.

Judge George Kersten is displaying patience, tact and ability in his conduct of the car barn murder trial.

The theater people are making a fine show of dissatisfaction with the new law. When it comes to a piece of acting the theatrical folk are there "with the goods."

William R. Hearst has announced the platform on which he proposes to be a candidate for President of the United States. It is a comprehensive one, but makes control of the trusts the dominating issue.

The public will form its own opinion of the new building ordinance, irrespective of the laudations of some of the dailies.

State's Attorney Deneen seems to take much comfort out of the so-called Lowden round-up at the Sherman House Tuesday, and so, by the way, does Mr. Lowden. Somebody must be mistaken about the matter.

Republican politics are bubbling up pretty lively all over Cook County just now. The various gubernatorial candidates are lining up their forces and making big demonstrations. It is said the bitterest contest will occur in the Sixth and Seventh Wards. This, how-

ever, has been for years the stamping ground of that astute political leader, T. N. Jamieson, who generally manages to land his delegates to the convention, fight or no fight.

Old-time friends are found on different sides in the pending Republican gubernatorial campaign. For instance, National Committeeman Graeme Stewart has come out for Colonel Lowden, while Fred A. Busse is working hard for Mr. Deneen.

Harrison's graft investigation has practically wound up in a fizzle, as everybody expected it would.

Now the clerks in the water office have gone on a strike. This may result in completely crippling that department, which would be a serious matter for the public. The City Hall Payroll Brigade is certainly a fine outfit.



JOHN J. MITCHELL,

President Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.

ing significant request is made: "The jury is asked to ascertain whether the laws of Illinois provide that municipal officers indicted and convicted for failure to do their duty cease to hold office; and that if the laws of Illinois so provide, whether any municipal officer has failed to enforce the said laws and the municipal ordinances to such an extent as justifies his or their indictment."

Mayor Harrison opposed the formation of a protective association by the members of the police force several months ago. Why does he encourage the formation of one now?

The City Council first passed an emasculated theater ordinance and then suspended its operation until August next. What is this for? To give the fire fiend another chance?

Is the proposed new Police-men's Protective Association being codified because it is expected to antagonize the work of the Citizens' Anti-Crime Committee?

Harrison's graft investigation was a fine bluff.

An old familiar strain: "Boil the water."

Under Harrison's administration Chicago is unable to establish a \$50,000 municipal anti-toxin plant.

Perhaps that query of the December grand jury may be put to the present inquisitorial body concerning other matters than the Kellogg Switchboard strike.

There should be no let-up in the work of putting the school buildings in fireproof condition.

M. F. Dunlap says he will next proceed to carry the Hearst boom right into Congressman Williams' district.

It is doubtful if Harrison could gain admission as a delegate to the State convention, not to talk about the leadership of the Democracy of Illinois.

A number of our city fathers have been prostrated by their strenuous labors and overtime work of late. It all was put in on the building ordinance. What could have produced such a prodigious spurt of industry and such an extraordinary outcome of it?

In the report presented to the present grand jury by the foreman of the December body, in which failure to enforce the laws during recent labor riots and troubles is discussed, the follow-

Every law-abiding person wishes success to the Citizens' Anti-crime Committee in the task to which it has set itself.

Chicago has suffered heavily from the prevalence of crime within its borders.

It has suffered financially and it has suffered loss of reputation as a law-abiding community.

This fact was illustrated very recently when Chicago lost out in the fight for the Democratic national convention.

While other reasons may have operated to bring about the defeat of this city in that contest, it is well known that the reputation which it has obtained for lawlessness during the past six and one-half years was also a potent factor in causing that defeat.

Our business interests have suffered from it right along, the material condition of the city has deteriorated from it.

Crime and lawlessness are charged up against us. Anarchy, which has not merely been winked at, but in fact to some degree fostered and encouraged here, has spread far and wide. Every thug and law breaker whose ears have been for over six years regaled with the anarchistic campaign catch cry of "the streets belong to the people" has taken a sinister meaning from it, and acted upon it. The City Hall, the very seat of municipal government, is declared by the chief executive himself to be permeated with graft, a dreadful catastrophe has demonstrated that the most vital of our laws and ordinance have not been enforced, but have, on the contrary, been systematically ignored or violated; in brief, we have an inveterate city administration, no municipal government, in fact.

Small wonder that crime is rampant.

Such being the condition, was it not time that the citizens of Chicago, the men of business and of affairs who have helped build up the commercial greatness of this city, should take matters in their own hands and organize to fight crime.

This organization is composed of men in whom the people have confidence. They are men of the highest standing and reputation, and whatever they do, it may be depended upon will be for the best interests of the city.

This fight against crime, The Eagle has reason to believe, will be thorough. It will go to the roots of things, and will strike home without either fear or favor. The effect of non-enforcement of the laws is before the eyes of the citizens' anti-crime committee; it will be its duty to find the cause and to eliminate it.

What is needed most to rescue Chicago from its present deplorable condition is to educate the people up to the necessity of having a city administration which will be something more than a pay-roll and an organized appetite. When that has been done, and the City Hall cleaned out from top to bottom, Chicago will once more take her proper place in the eyes and the estimation of the world.

What a farce! First a building law is framed, next the vitals are cut out of it, then it is suspended, and now the resolutions which prohibited immediate reopening of the theaters until they are made reasonably safe are to be

"modified" at next Monday's Council meeting. The wonderful sympathy of the Council and the city administration for the poor theatrical people is really touching.

Listen to this from Harrison: "I am not seeking the leadership of the Illinois Democracy." Well, we should say not.

Peace prospects in the far East have thrown a wet blanket over the esteemed Tribune's Sedmore letters. Our contemporary should not despair, however; the worst might yet occur.

The Board of Education, let it be distinctly understood, cannot have all the bribery stories to itself. The South Park Board has entered the bribery story arena with both feet, and this is no paltry \$200 tale either. The good round sum of \$5,000 is involved in this case. It appears likely, however, that the mention of the amount is the only thing that will be involved.

Jan. 27 is the date fixed for the Republican love feast at Springfield. There will then be a counting of noses that will tell something definite about several gubernatorial candidates' prospects.

All Chicago schools more than two stories high erected in the future must be fire-proof. This decision was reached by the Board of Education at its last meeting. The sum of \$8,000 has also been appropriated by the board for fire escapes for eight of the old buildings. This is business. Keep it up.

Even the school children of Chicago are being taught an object lesson as to the results of inefficient city government and non-enforcement of the laws. It has been decided that circulars shall be distributed among the pupils in the schools calling their attention to the necessity of "helping to cleanse Chicago of moral and physical filth."

Now for the next big fire and bigger loss of life. Harrison must be woke up again.

Governor Yates is saying little these days, but he keeps on sawing wood. His lieutenants, who are among the ablest men in the Republican party, are keeping their eyes firmly fixed on the political barometer, and they have shown no signs of excitement so far.

Municipal ownership yawpers are beginning to get busy again now that the Local Transportation Committee is resuming its work. The committee has decided to hold open sessions. This, it is feared, will give the wild-eyed theorists, Socialists and Anarchists more opportunity to hamper and delay matters. There is no need for town meetings in the discussion of this matter.

If the Cleveland, New York and Boston delegates to the National Board of Trade are to have their way Chicago will not receive any financial aid from the United States government toward increasing the size of the drainage channel for navigation to the gulf.

LET THE FIGHT GO ON.

The People Are with the Citizens' Anti-Crime Committee Despite Hostility of Administration.

Something Must Be Done to Save the Reputation of Chicago, Now So Sullied.

Baneful Effects of Non-Enforcement of Laws and Toleration of Anarchistic Spirit,

Calls for Radical Action that Will Strike at the Root of the Evil.

Those Responsible Must Be Exposed Regardless Entirely of Their Official or Social Position.

Every law-abiding person wishes success to the Citizens' Anti-crime Committee in the task to which it has set itself.

Chicago has suffered heavily from the prevalence of crime within its borders.

It has suffered financially and it has suffered loss of reputation as a law-abiding community.

This fact was illustrated very recently when Chicago lost out in the fight for the Democratic national convention.

While other reasons may have operated to bring about the defeat of this city in that contest, it is well known that the reputation which it has obtained for lawlessness during the past six and one-half years was also a potent factor in causing that defeat.

Our business interests have suffered from it right along, the material condition of the city has deteriorated from it.

Crime and lawlessness are charged up against us. Anarchy, which has not merely been winked at, but in fact to some degree fostered and encouraged here, has spread far and wide. Every thug and law breaker whose ears have been for over six years regaled with the anarchistic campaign catch cry of "the streets belong to the people" has taken a sinister meaning from it, and acted upon it. The City Hall, the very seat of municipal government, is declared by the chief executive himself to be permeated with graft, a dreadful catastrophe has demonstrated that the most vital of our laws and ordinance have not been enforced, but have, on the contrary, been systematically ignored or violated; in brief, we have an inveterate city administration, no municipal government, in fact.

Small wonder that crime is rampant.

Such being the condition, was it not time that the citizens of Chicago, the men of business and of affairs who have helped build up the commercial greatness of this city, should take matters in their own hands and organize to fight crime.

This organization is composed of men in whom the people have confidence. They are men of the highest standing and reputation, and whatever they do, it may be depended upon will be for the best interests of the city.

This fight against crime, The Eagle has reason to believe, will be thorough. It will go to the roots of things, and will strike home without either fear or favor. The effect of non-enforcement of the laws is before the eyes of the citizens' anti-crime committee; it will be its duty to find the cause and to eliminate it.

What is needed most to rescue Chicago from its present deplorable condition is to educate the people up to the necessity of having a city administration which will be something more than a pay-roll and an organized appetite. When that has been done, and the City Hall cleaned out from top to bottom, Chicago will once more take her proper place in the eyes and the estimation of the world.

What a farce! First a building law is framed, next the vitals are cut out of it, then it is suspended, and now the resolutions which prohibited immediate reopening of the theaters until they are made reasonably safe are to be

"modified" at next Monday's Council meeting. The wonderful sympathy of the Council and the city administration for the poor theatrical people is really touching.

Listen to this from Harrison: "I am not seeking the leadership of the Illinois Democracy." Well, we should say not.

Peace prospects in the far East have thrown a wet blanket over the esteemed Tribune's Sedmore letters. Our contemporary should not despair, however; the worst might yet occur.

The Board of Education, let it be distinctly understood, cannot have all the bribery stories to itself. The South Park Board has entered the bribery story arena with both feet, and this is no paltry \$200 tale either. The good round sum of \$5,000 is involved in this case. It appears likely, however, that the mention of the amount is the only thing that will be involved.

Jan. 27 is the date fixed for the Republican love feast at Springfield. There will then be a counting of noses that will tell something definite about several gubernatorial candidates' prospects.

All Chicago schools more than two stories high erected in the future must be fire-proof. This decision was reached by the Board of Education at its last meeting. The sum of \$8,000 has also been appropriated by the board for fire escapes for eight of the old buildings. This is business. Keep it up.

Even the school children of Chicago are being taught an object lesson as to the results of inefficient city government and non-enforcement of the laws. It has been decided that circulars shall be distributed among the pupils in the schools calling their attention to the necessity of "helping to cleanse Chicago of moral and physical filth."

Now for the next big fire and bigger loss of life. Harrison must be woke up again.

Governor Yates is saying little these days, but he keeps on sawing wood. His lieutenants, who are among the ablest men in the Republican party, are keeping their eyes firmly fixed on the political barometer, and they have shown no signs of excitement so far.

Municipal ownership yawpers are beginning to get busy again now that the Local Transportation Committee is resuming its work. The committee has decided to hold open sessions. This, it is feared, will give the wild-eyed theorists, Socialists and Anarchists more opportunity to hamper and delay matters. There is no need for town meetings in the discussion of this matter.

If the Cleveland, New York and Boston delegates to the National Board of Trade are to have their way Chicago will not receive any financial aid from the United States government toward increasing the size of the drainage channel for navigation to the gulf.